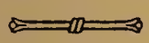
WALSINGHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1955

to which is appended the

Report of the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J. COUTTS MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Engineer and Surveyor : Senior Sanitary Inspector

A. H. EAGLE, M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
Incorporated Sanitary Engineer, Certificate as
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Resident Engineer, Regional Water Contract
(until 15th June, 1955)

E. HAYMAN

Additional Sanitary Inspector

L. H. DOUGHTY, Cert. S.I.B.
Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector

P. A. PAGE, Cert. S.I.B.
Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Water Mains Superintendent

R. A. GALL

Clerical Assistant

Mrs E. G. DODMAN

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Health Office,
Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea,
Norfolk.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1955 compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

Public Health or the health of the community can be described in different ways depending on which aspect of health is being emphasised. It is often expressed in terms of infant mortality or of death rates or by the amount of disease and disability present, such as the number of cases of cancer, poliomyelitis, etc. Judged by the mortality rates the health of the district has been very good. The infant mortality rate and death rate are lower than is most previous years and less than the rates for England and Wales as a whole. But this does not present a complete picture of all that is meant by public health and mortality figures give little indication of the amount of social disorder or of conditions hostile to health such as overcrowding, bad housing and bad sanitation. The incidence of diseases which are or may be influenced by environmental conditions such as infective hepatitis and poliomylitis was low, but that is no indication that environmental conditions are good. It is more likely that the community has a certain degree of immunity or perhaps is protected by its remoteness from large centres of population.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration shown to the Public Health Staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Coutts Milne,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Walsingham Rural District Council

PART 1

(General Report of the Medical Officer of Health)

1. STAFF

There was no change in the staff during the year under review.

2. The WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT situated in North Norfolk comprises 38 parishes and has its administrative centre at Fakenham. The district is essentially an agricultural one, although its nine miles of sea coast provide facilities for the mussel industry and an attraction for summer visitors. There are a few factories centred in and around Fakenham. The District has in addition a number of Defence Establishments and in last year's report I commented on the effect of these establishments on the population.

The population of the district as estimated by the Registrar General for mid-1955 is 24,130, exactly the same figure as for mid-1954. The natural increase of births over deaths amounted to 170.

3. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE

During the year there were 359 live births giving a birth rate of 14.87 per 1,000 of the population. The comparability factor given by the Registrar General which when applied to the local rate gives a figure which can be compared with the rate for other areas is 1,29 for births. Thus the adjusted birth rate is 19.18 which compares with the rate of 15.0 for England and Wales as a whole. This high rate is accounted for by the increased number of young Service families in the district.

There were 8 still births (6 being males), giving a rate of 21.8 per 1,000 live and still births, which compares with the rate of 23.1 for England and Wales.

The 189 deaths give a crude death rate of 7.83 per 1,000 of the population - the comparability factor is 1.02 so that the adjusted rate of 7.89 compares with that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

4. INFANT MORTALITY RATE

There were 7 deaths in children under one year and all these deaths occurred under 4 weeks of age. The infant mortality rate is 19.5 per 1,000 related births compared with 23.3 for the previous year and with a rate of 24.9 for England and Wales as a whole. The perinatal rate, based on a combination of still births and deaths in the first four weeks of life and which is considered to give a better picture of infant mortality is 40.9 compared with a rate of 45.3 for the previous year.

5. CANCER

26 of the deaths in the district were recorded from cancer of various types. 15 of these were males, the same figure as the average for the past 5 years. 11 were females, a figure well below the average of 18 for the past 5 years. Only 3 of these deaths were from cancer of the respiratory tract, 2 being males.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) General

There were 300 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, a decrease of 267 from the previous year, mainly accounted for by a decrease in measles and whooping cough cases. There was, however, an increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever.

(b) Measles

In the last quarter of the year, cases of measles occurred in the parishes of Briston, Melton Constable and Field Dalling - a part of the district which for some reason was not affected by the epidemic in 1954. Of the 203 cases reported, 2 were in infants under 1 year of age, and 173 in children between the ages of 1 and 10 years. About half the cases occurred in the age groups 5 - 9 years.

(c) Whooping Cough

There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough reported; 35 as compared with 105 in 1954. This number was also well below the annual average of the last 10 years. All but 6 cases occurred during the last quarter of the year, mainly in the parishes of Briston and Melton Constable, coincidental with the outbreak of measles in these parishes. All the cases were in children under 10 years of age, and one was under 1 year old. No deaths were recorded as due to this disease.

(d) Scarlet Fever

During the year 37 cases of scarlet fever were reported - a considerable increase over the previous years - compared with 2 cases in 1954 and 6 in 1953. Former years showing a higher incidence of scarlet fever were 1950 (30 cases) 1949 (31 cases) and 1944 (56 cases). In 1944, most of the cases occurred in Fakenham, Briston and Walsingham.

Almost all the cases occurred in and around Fakenham, 10 occurring in July, 10 in October, 7 in November and 3 in December. Most of the cases were in children aged between 3 and 7 years of age; the youngest being in a child of 2 years. All the cases were mild in type. The Public Health Laboratory found that the infection was haemolytic streptococcus type 4, a type which may result in kidney damage as a complication. Apart from a number of cases occurring in 2 children in the same family, no direct contact could be traced between cases. The 37 cases give an incidence rate of 148 per 100,000 of the population which can be compared with that of 197 per 100,000 for England and Wales in 1954 and 139 in 1953. In this country at one time scarlet fever was a leading cause of death amongst the infectious diseases of children, but since 1870 the disease has become progressively milder and to-day it is almost a trivial illness, although there is always the possibility of reversion to a severe form. Why cases crop up in a community from time to time it is not possible to say; some variety of the causative organism is always present and it has been postulated that a strain must have epidemic capacity to give rise to outbreaks. As the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his Annual Report for 1954 says "the notifiable streptococcal diseases; erysipelas, puerperal sepsis are indicators of a much greater and more complex range of clinical conditions and this is the main reason for continuing to make them notifiable". There is no guarantee either that the servere form of the disease will not return.

(e) Diphtheria

No case was notified during the year. Only one case has been recorded in the past 8 years - that of an adult in 1952. The incidence of Diphtheria in England and Wales continues to fall from 3,575 cases and 156 deaths in 1948 to a new low figure of 161 cases with 11 deaths in 1955. In order to eradicate the disease, it is considered necessary to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. In Area 8, the number of children immunised before they were one year old was 41%.

(f) Poliomyelitis

Four cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year compared with 3 in 1954. One case in August, an adult who became ill 2 days after arriving in the district from London and two cases in September, both in young Air Force personnel who were presumed to have contracted the

infection outside this country, and one case in October - also in an airman on the same Service Station. Two of the four cases were paralytic - one being fatal, and the other two were non-paralytic. So that it may, I think, be said that no indigenous case actually occurred, and in this the district was fortunate, as in the rest of England and Wales, poliomyelitis showed a particularly high incidence - the number of notifications being exceeded only in the outbreaks in 1947 and 1950. In this connection some recently published work on the distribution of poliomyelitis antibodies in the blood of children, an indication of immunity - is of interest. In Betwys-Y-Coed, a village in Wales about the size of Blakeney, although no cases of poliomyelitis had been reported since 1912, it was found that infection by poliomyelitis viruses in childhood was extremely common and it is possible that such widespread infection at an early age may partly explain the low incidence of the disease in that village.

A big step towards the safe and effective control of poliomyelitis in this country was taken early this year (1956) when a voluntary scheme of vaccination with a British variant of the Salk Vaccine was introduced and offered to children born between the years 1947 and 1954 inclusive.

(g) Infective Hepatitis

There was a very marked decrease in the number of cases notified - only one case in a schoolboy at Crabbe, in February, compared with 37 cases in 1954.

Combining the number of cases in the three districts in Area 8, cases notified totalled 4 among a combined population of 43,000, giving an incidence rate of 0.1 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 1.3 in 1954.

(h) Tuberculosis

Ten new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, 9 being female. Eight of them were transfers from other districts leaving 2 local cases. One death occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis. For the first time for a number of years there were no new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

At the end of the year 73 cases remained on the register compared with 85 at the end of the previous year. Part of this reduction was accounted for by detailed re-check of all names on the register and the removal of the names of persons who had recovered or removed from the district.

(i) Food Poisoning

Only one small family outbreak was reported, all 7 members being affected with a mild illness of short duration. No causative organisms were isolated, nor could the source of infection be determined.

In this district, food poisoning so far, has not been a problem - although in the rest of the country food poisoning has increased greatly in the post war period due, it is thought, to the marked extension of communal feeding. No doubt, apart from school meals, there is not the need or demand for communal meals in a rural area and so the risk of food infection is minimised. Possibly too, quite a number of food upsets do not come to the notice of the doctor. Food premises, however, require to be brought up to a certain standard and in this connection, the new Food Regulations which come into force on 1st January 1956 are to be welcomed.

7. LEGISLATION

Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations 1954

A new form of notification for cases of puerperal pyrexia requiring the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated, came into operation on the 1st March 1955.

The Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs) Order 1955

With effect from the 6th July 1955 responsibility for certain functions relating to food hygiene were transferred from the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the Minister of Health.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

By the Food and Drugs Amendment Act 1954 (appointed Day) Order

1955, the 1st January 1956 was the day appointed on which the Food and Drugs Act 1955 came into force. New Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 also came into force on the same day.

Knackers' Yard Byelaws

During the year, model byelaws relating to knackers' yards were submitted and confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and came into force on the 1st April 1956.

8. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Two Orders were issued during the year to restrict the sale of milk on account of Tuberculosis. One Order was removed later in the year as was one Order imposed in a previous year; so that only one Order remained in force at the end of the year.

No report of milk infected with brucella abortus was received during the year. One restriction order imposed in a previous year was removed and three orders remained in force at the end of the year.

9. ANTHRAX

Between February and March, six reports were received of suspected anthrax - five concerned pigs and one a cow. It is generally considered that the source of infection in such cases arises from the use of imported feeding stuffs or fertilizers.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action was called for under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

11. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION IN AREA NO. 8

(a) Vaccination

167 children under the age of 1 year were vaccinated during 1955 in Area 8, which comprises the Rural Districts of Docking and Walsingham and the Urban Districts of Hunstanton and Wells. There were 851 births during the year in the Area so that only the equivalent of 18.4% of the children born were vaccinated, a figure well below that for the country as a whole. This figure is without doubt an under estimate as births among American service families are included in the total number of births, but figures of the number of American babies vaccinated are not available. 217 reports of primary vaccination and 50 of re-vaccination were received during the year. The following table gives details of the age groups :-

Age Group	Vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 year	167	-
Aged 1 year	10	2
2 - 4 years	8	3
5 - 14 years	6	5
15 years and over	26	40
Total	217	50

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation is best carried out during the last quarter of the child's first year of life and booster doses are required to be given at the ages of 5 and 9 years. Immunisation is carried out at infant welfare centres and at surgeries and re-immunisations at school medical inspections.

The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in Area 8.

Primary Immunisation

Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	Total
349	178	82	609

Booster Doses

5 - 14 years	Total
799	799

The number of children in Area 8 at 31st December 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date is as follows :-

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1 to 4 1954/51	5 to 9	10 to 14	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections - whether primary or booster	53	1,680	2,167	1,464	5,364
1950 or earlier	-	-	349	930	1,279
Total					6,643

(c) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Immunisation with whooping cough vaccine was introduced as a County Scheme in 1953 and is becoming increasingly popular. This vaccine can be given separately or combined with diphtheria antigen - the latter is now the recommended one - whooping cough immunisation does not give so complete a degree of protection as that for diphtheria but if not prevented in all cases, the severity of the attack is certainly lessened. The following table shows the number of children who were immunised against whooping cough in Area 8 in 1955 :-

	Under 1	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 to 14 years	Total
With whooping cough vaccination alone	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
With combined whooping cough and diphtheria prophylactic	229	87	10	3	1	-	330
Total	229	87	10	4	3	-	333

12. SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Much time of the Public Health Committee, not to mention the time of the technical and consultant staff, was taken up in considering sewerage schemes. One in particular, for Blakeney, Morston and Wiveton in which these villages are to have a joint scheme with Cley-next-the-Sea in the neighbouring rural district of Erpingham, raised many problems of conflicting interest; not least being the siting of an ejector station adjacent to the Blakeney Quay.

Progress in regard to plans for improving and extending the existing system of sewerage at Fakenham was also made. The need for such improvement was first considered in 1950 but any action had been deferred in the interests of economy. Now, however, the increased load on the existing works and the building of many more houses in the town renders action

imperative. Sir William Savage has stated that one of three factors should determine whether a sewerage scheme is or is not required in a rural area viz., (a) possibility of pollution of a water supply, (b) if direct nuisance or inconvenience caused and (c) if there is serious river pollution. In Fakenham during the drier months of the year (b) and (c) operate. To my mind Fakenham's extension takes priority over Blakeney's needs.

13. HOUSING

A relatively considerable shift in the population took place during the year, through the closing of huts at Little Snoring and North Creake Airfields with rehousing of the occupants in Little Walsingham and Fakenham. It is not possible to even venture to estimate the gain to the health and well being of the people concerned in such a move. Taken at its least, I certainly know that many fewer complaints have been made to me this past winter of housing defects. Dampness was the invariable cause for complaint. It is not possible to make any dogmatic statement on the effect of dampness upon health. It is recognised that a cold damp climate promotes a tendency to chronic rheumatic affections but no direct association has been traced to housing alone. Bad housing conditions certainly have an adverse effect on health but the part played by poverty, overcrowding, bad management and dilapidation of the dwelling cannot each be separately assessed. Dampness is the great ally of disrepair and leads to deterioration of furniture and furnishings. To see how quickly the linoleum or carpet rot and the paper peels off the wall after a room has been redecorated makes one realise why the housewife in a damp cottage gives dampness highest priority on the list of defects. The fact that physical ill-health cannot be demonstrated as being caused by dampness should not be used as an argument that a damp house is not unfit for habitation.

I am indebted to Mr B. D. Riches, Housing Manager for the following report :-

At the 31st December 1955 the Council had 1099 occupied dwellings made up as follows :-

Pre-war Dwellings	426
Post-war Dwellings	554
Converted Hutments under Ministry Circular No.	
20/46 (Paragraph 6) - Little Snoring	44
20/46 (Paragraph 6) - North Creake	3
20/46 (Paragraph 6) - Langham	11
20/46 (Paragraph 4) - Pudding Norton	61
Total	1,099

It will be noted there is a very small increase of occupied dwellings over last year, although during the year 70 new dwellings were completed and occupied, but the majority of these dwellings were allotted to families living in hutments, and this has enabled the Council to carry out its policy to clear the occupied hutments on North Creake, Crossways, The Coppice and Church View, Little Snoring. Only 15 families are left on these sites and alternative accommodation has already been offered to the remaining families and it is anticipated these four sites will be cleared by the end of March 1956.

The Council will have 29 families living in converted nissen hutments on The Drift, Bell Close, Little Snoring and Hollow Lane, Langham and no provision has yet been made to re-house these families.

During the year 52 dwellings were put out to tender, and 25 of this number were commenced. Some 48 pre-war and post-war houses in various parishes were re-let and 20 exchanges were effected. 25 hutments at Little Snoring, Langham and Pudding Norton were also re-let during the year.

It was possible to effect a number of exchanges during the year and this has been made possible by building a high proportion of two-

bedroomed dwellings, and those tenants who have been waiting to move into smaller accommodation have now been able to do so.

Building Programme for 1955

The Council decided to build a further 52 dwellings in the following parishes :-

Fakenham, Walsingham, Barney, Barsham, Hindringham, Great Ryburgh and Sculthorpe,

in addition to the 119 dwellings already under construction at Fakenham and Walsingham.

It has become apparent that the needs of the smaller villages have been met, as there are very few applicants on Waiting Lists for the smaller villages, and what urgent cases are outstanding the need can be met by re-lets. Families living in sub-standard houses will be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme.

There is still a need for houses in the larger villages of Briston, Blakeney, Helhoughton, Fakenham and Walsingham. At the presemt time there are 485 applicants on the Waiting Lists for the whole district, made up as under :-

Urgent Cases

(a)	Families living in Class 5 houses, overcrowded, medical cases, living in hutments	159
(b)	Families sharing accommodation, i.e.living in furnished rooms or with parents, etc.	95
(c)	Engaged couples wishing to get married	24
		277

Not urgent cases

(a)	Families living in Class 3 houses and requiring a modern house	
(b)	Wishing to move to smaller accommodation because of age, etc.	
(c)	Wishing to move nearer to work owing to travel difficulties	
(d)	Wishing to move out of tied houses and change nature of employment or retire etc.	208
	Total	485

In the parishes of Fakenham and Hempton there is still a very great need for new dwellings, as there are 220 applicants on the Fakenham and Hempton Waiting List out of a total of 485 for the whole district, and the majority of the new applications received are for the parish of Fakenham.

The 220 applicants on the Fakenham Waiting List have been analysed under the following categories :-

Urgent	82
Semi-urgent	93
Not urgent	45
Total . ..	220

To meet the immediate needs in Fakenham, at least another 60 - 70 houses are needed, and if houses are not built, the situation in Fakenham will become extremely acute, as only a small number of houses become available for re-letting.

General

No alteration in rents was made during the year, and although difficulty is being experienced by some families to pay the rent, it is found rent is being paid regularly by the majority of the tenants and

out of a total collection of rent and rates amounting to approximately £50,000 there was approximately £20 outstanding over 14 days, which is .04% of the total rent roll. Court proceedings were taken in one case during the year, and possession was given to the Council.

PART II

(Medical Statistics)

TABLE 1 - GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in Acres)	88,818
Estimated Resident Population	24,130
Rateable Value	£92,812
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£375

TABLE 2 - LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	168	179	347
Illegitimate	6	6	12
	174	185	359

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population .. 14.87

TABLE 3 - STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	6	2	8

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. 21.8

TABLE 4 - DEATHS (all ages)

Males	Females	Total
112	77	189

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population .. 7.83

TABLE 5 - INFANT MORTALITY (DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	3	7

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 19.49

TABLE 6 - DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	3	7

TABLE 7 - CAUSE OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Prematurity	2	2	4
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Meningitis	1	-	1
Atelectasis	2	-	2
Total	5	3	8
Total Adjusted	4	3	7

TABLE 8 - CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	1	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	9	21
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16.	Diabetes	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	14	23
18.	Coronary disease, angina	15	8	23
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	27	20	47
21.	Other circulatory diseases	7	3	10
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	3	1	4
24.	Bronchitis	5	-	5
25.	Other diseases of the repiratory system	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
34.	All other accidents	1	4	5
35.	Suicide	1	1	2
	Total	112	77	189

TABLE 9 - DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES (INCLUDING OUTWARD TRANSFERS)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	5	3	8
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 and under 10	-	-	-
10 and under 20	1	-	1
20 and under 30	4	2	6
30 and under 40	2	4	6
40 and under 50	2	2	4
50 and under 60	12	4	16
60 and under 70	20	11	31
70 and under 80	31	20	51
80 and under 90	32	24	56
90 and under 100	3	8	11
Total	113	78	191
Total Adjusted	112	77	189

TABLE 10 - CANCER

The following table shows the incidence of Cancer deaths during the past five years :-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Males	17	11	10	21	15
Females	15	14	18	16	11

TABLE 11 - SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population	23,270	23,910	24,780	24,130	24,130
Live Births	338	340	390	386	359
Still Births	3	2	12	12	8
Deaths	241	226	202	197	189
Infant Deaths	10	13	9	9	7

TABLE 12 - SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Live Births	14.53	14.63	15.74	15.99	14.87
Crude Deaths	10.36	9.45	8.15	8.16	7.83
Infant Mortality	29.59	38.24	23.08	23.32	19.49
Still Births	8.80	5.80	29.80	24.10	21.80

TABLE 13 - (a) INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Under One	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 and Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	8	27	-	-	-	37
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Measles	2	26	30	117	24	1	3	203
Whooping Cough	1	6	9	19	-	-	-	35
Total	3	34	47	163	24	3	5	279

TABLE 13 - (b)

	Under 5	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 and Over	Total
Acute Pneumonia ..	-	2	2	1	5	10
Food Poisoning ..	1	3	2	-	1	7
Malaria (Contracted Aboard)	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	1
Jaundice	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	6	6	1	6	21

TABLE 14 - BIRTH RATES AND MORTALITY RATES FOR 1955 - PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS

	England and Wales	Walsingham Rural District
	RATES PER 1,000 Population	
Births		
Live Births	15.0	14.87
Still Births	23.1	0.33
Deaths		
All Causes	11.7	7.83
All Deaths Causes - Under 1 year of Age	24.9	19.49

TABLE 15 - MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Measles	137	216	32	420	203
Whooping Cough	111	13	120	105	35

TABLE 16 - TUBERCULOSIS (DETAILS OF NEW CASES DURING 1955)

Age Period	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-
5 to 14	-	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	3	-	-
25 to 44	1	6	-	-
45 to 64	-	-	-	-
65 and Over	-	-	-	-
Total	1	9	-	-
Totals	10		-	
Grand Total	10			

TABLE 17 - TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T.B. REGISTER END 1955

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	37	30	67
Non-Pulmonary	2	4	6
Total	39	34	73

TABLE 18 - TUBERCULOSIS (DETAILS OF NEW CASES FOR LAST 5 YEARS

		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pulmonary	M.	6	6	9	11	1
	F.	8	7	3	7	9
Non-Pulmonary	M.	4	1	1	1	-
	F.	2	2	4	3	-
		20	16	17	22	10

PART III

REPORT OF ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1955

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for 1955.

The year has been one of achievement on the engineering side of the Department's activities and I would particularly draw your attention to the substantial progress by the end of the year in the Walsinghams' sewerage contract, the completion of Stage IIB of the regional water mains, a commencement of the Tatterset and Hindringham water schemes and the repair and lining out of the Fakenham Water Tower.

On the sanitary side, Slum Clearance has taken up much of our efforts and applications for Improvement Grants have been more numerous than I anticipated in my report for 1954. Meat inspection has settled down to a regular and important part in the daily duties.

Details of the above and other work carried out during the year appear on subsequent pages.

I thank the Council for its consideration and my colleagues for their help throughout the year.

I am, Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. EAGLE,

Engineer and Surveyor
Sanitary Inspector

1. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Initial Inspections	244
Revisits	89
Means of Escape from Fire	5

HOUSING ACTS

House Inspections	201
Revisits in connection with above	248
Visits in connection with applications for grants under Housing Act 1949	224
Visits re Slum Clearance	1,283

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Premises Inspected	168
Visits re manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	9
Visits to dairies and inspection of milk retailers vehicles	5
Slaughterhouse and Meat inspection visits	288
Visits re Shellfish	12

SEWERAGE

Inspections of sewerage systems, disposal works and sewer ditches	199
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	55
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	18
Visits to Housing Sites in connection with proposed or existing sewerage and water supplies	9
Contract (Sewerage) visits	214

DISTRICT SCAVENGING

Visiting workmen on rounds, investigating complaints etc	77
Refuse Tips	52

FACTORIES ACT

Inspection of factories with power	21
Inspection of factories without power	10

BUILDING BYELAWS INSPECTIONS

Inspection during course of construction	690

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases Investigated	62
Rooms Disinfected	15

PETROLEUM ACTS

Installations inspected and tested	10

SMALL DWELLING ACQUISITION ACT

Valuations and visits	23

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Inspections	26

KNACKERS' YARDS

Inspections	5

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Visits	194

WATER SUPPLY - R.D.C. MAINS

Visits	236
Carried Forward	4692

Brought Forward	4692

WATER SUPPLY - NEW CONTRACTS

Visits	26

OTHER VISITS

Not classified under the headings above but made in connection therewith	131
	4849

NOTICES SERVED - INFORMAL NOTICES

Public Health and Housing Acts	92
Food and Drugs Act	5
Factories Act	4
Building Byelaws	30
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	4
Street Numbering	117
Total Notices Served	252

FORMAL NOTICES SERVED

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Permission to serve	3
Served	3

HOUSING ACTS

Permission to serve	6
Served	6

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Permission to serve	2
Served	2
Total Formal Notices Served ..	11

2. FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following food has been condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

Pork	Home Killed Meat Beef	Mutton
1 Pig's carcase with offal	1 calf carcase with offal	3 Sheep's Livers
7 Pigs' Heads	7 Ox Heads with tongues	
7 Pigs' Mesenteries	6 Ox Mesenteries	
5 Pigs Plucks	10 Sets Ox Lungs	
4 Pigs' Livers	17 Ox Livers	
2 (part) Pigs' Livers	23 (part) Ox Livers	
4 Sets Pigs' lungs with hearts	4 Ox Kidneys	
8 Sets Pigs' Lungs	1 Calf's Liver	
4 Pigs' Kidneys	2 Ox Paunches	
2 Forequarters of Pork	1 Ox Heart	
2 Legs and loin of pork	1 Ox thin skirt	
8 Pigs' Feet	2 Short forequarters Beef	
100 lbs Pork	1 Forequarter Veal	
	146 lbs Beef	

Imported and Canned Meat	Other Foods (including Canned Foods)
188 lbs	122 lbs

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

During the year 7,997 premises were inspected by the rat catchers and of these 2,381 dwellings were treated. Poisoning of tips, buildings and other land belonging to the Council totalled 31 treatments. 288 non-domestic properties were treated and charges were made at 135 premises. A sum of £67. 3s. 9d. was charged in fees for poisoning. Records show that 2,193 bodies were picked up after poisoning.

4. ANALYSIS OF PRIVATE SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

	RESULTS		
	Total	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory
Samples submitted to ascertain suitability as domestic water supply	121	75	46

5. CARAVANS

The following land was licensed for use as caravan sites during the year :-

Holkham, Hill Farm	2 Caravans
Morston, Parish Hall Ground	5 Caravans
Morston, Quay Lane	3 Caravans
Tatterford, Wicken Field	88 Caravans

Twenty two individual caravans were licensed to be stationed in various Parishes in the district.

6. REGISTRATION OF ICE-CREAM PREMISES

Four certificates for the registration of ice-cream premises were issued during the year.

7. SEWERAGE

(a) Great and Little Walsingham

This contract valued at £28,285 commenced in April and excellent weather prevailed throughout. The majority of the sewers had been laid by November and the ejector stations in the same month. These latter, at Brookey's Dock and Berry Hall presented difficult site conditions entailing extensive pumping throughout with sub-soil water almost at ground level at the latter station. Trench excavation through the Abbey grounds was also difficult (no finds of great archaeological interest were reported). Interim reinstatement of trench surfaces gave rise to some criticism. Mr B. G. Moore was appointed to assist me in the supervision of this contract and his aid was invaluable.

A Sub-Committee was set up in May to formulate a policy regarding reconnections of properties to the new sewer and conversion of earth closets to water-closets.

(b) Blakeney, Wiveton, Morston

Objections to the proposed site of the ejector station at Blakeney had resulted in a special meeting of the Public Health Committee on the site at Blakeney on 31st August. The choice of site was still under discussion at the end of the year.

(c) Fakenham and Hempton

The existing Fakenham system, the inadequacy of which has been reported upon by me over the past ten years and by the Medical Officer of Health in 1955, has become an even greater embarrassment during the year under review when the increasing number of houses connected to the scheme has added to the serious position.

It is heartening to note the Council's application went forward during the y to proceed with a scheme valued at almost £77,000 to incorporate Hempton and a new sewage disposal works which should obviate the necessity of pumping screened sewage to the stream at Hall Staithe.

(d) Melton Constable

This system continues to deteriorate but gives rise to no public nuisance.

(e) Sewer Ditches

Over two miles of these were cleaned out during the year.

8. DISTRICT SCAVENING

An order was placed for a 1000-gallon diesel engined cesspool emptier to replace a vehicle purchased in 1946.

The service proceeded smoothly throughout the year. An increased use of the collection of refuse in the more rural parishes was noted.

9. HOUSING

(a) Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants

A steady flow of applications has been experienced and in the current year £14,126 had been granted to improve 57 properties.

Analysing the effect of the grants made by the Council since June 1954 up to April 1956, the following totals are interesting :-

Total amount granted	Occupation by Owner	Occupation by Tenant	Grant essential to preserve house and to provide amenities	Grant to improve amenities only
£21,542	30	48	26	52

(b) Housing Act 1936
Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II	9
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Council	13
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices, by owners	9
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices by Council in default of owners	-
Undertakings given by owners not to re-let dwellings until repairs completed	1

(c) Houses Constructed

Number of houses completed in the year by private builders	19

(d) Slum Clearance

The survey of sub-standard houses required for the Government slum clearance programme was carried out by reviewing each of the 650 Class V (condemnable) and Class 3/5 (borderline between repairable and condemnable) houses resulting from the "Hobhouse" survey of 1946/8. This latter survey had been carried out by three different surveyors: on this occasion, so as to obtain greater conformity I accompanied one or the other of the district sanitary inspectors to each cottage to be classified and as a result, and bearing in mind the modified requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the final total of houses which the Council will wish to deal with as potentially condemnable houses will be 383.

In addition, at the time of my Report on Slum Clearance in September it was noted that 101 houses already condemned still stood and that 46 of these were occupied.

Binham was chosen as being the village having probably the greatest problem and in December a special meeting of the Public Health Committee was held in the village. A number of individual unfit houses were condemned. The village also presented a typical "island"of properties falling in the "Clearance Area" category and the Council instructed its Architect to design a layout to "infill" the area should a Clearance Order be proceeded with. If Binham is to be regarded as a typical village there is an indication from the Committee's attitude that the total of 383 houses considered by me to be unfit will be further reduced to about 250 houses requiring replacement.

During the year 7 demolition orders were made, two undertakings that the dwellings would not be used for habitation accepted and 6 similar undertakings rescinded upon the carrying out of repairs.

10. MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM FIRE

Six certificates on adequacy of means of escape from fire were issued in respect of premises in the District.

11. STREET NUMBERING

Street numbering was authorised for Binham, Langham and Field Dalling.

12. FOOD PREMISES

Meat inspection represents almost 100% inspection of that which is actually slaughtered in the three slaughterhouses in use in the District. Inspection of other food premises is not as frequent as I would like it to be but it may be agreed that work under other headings has justified a slight falling off in this branch of our work.

The Council made a resolution under Section 4 (2) of the Slaughterhouses Act 1954, later confirmed by the Minister of Food whereby no further slaughterhouses will be licensed in the District except with the permission of the Minister.

13. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

A reconditioned turnstile was installed at Blakeney and like the apparatus at Fakenham not only showed considerable financial advantage over the door lock system but also improved the cleanliness of the convenience.

14. WATER SUPPLIES

After leaking for some years the tower at Fakenham was repaired and lined out in asphalt during the year at a cost of £2105.

Alterations were carried out to buildings at Little Snoring to form a depot consisting of workshops, garage, store, messroom, office and plans room. The area has been fenced and now forms an excellent headquarters for an ever growing scheme.

The Tattersett village scheme in 4-inch C.I. pipe receiving water from the Docking R. D. C. was almost completed by the end of the year and a start made on the Hindringham village scheme which is linked up to the Reservoir-Walsingham main. These two contracts are worth £10,125. 5s. 11d. I acted as resident engineer representing the Consultants (Messrs A. P. I. Cotterell and Son) in the three contracts described.

Connection to Mains

365 domestic premises and 37 metered supplies were connected to the main during the year.

Extensions

(1) An extension in 3-inch C.I., main to supply the new Modern Secondary School at Fakenham was laid by direct labour. About 500 yards was laid.

(2) The Melton Estate laid 500 yards of polythene $1\frac{1}{2}$" tube to supply four cottages and farm premises at Hindolvestone.

Staff

It was found possible to reduce the manual staff by one man during the year.

Rising Main - Fakenham - West Raynham R.A.F. Station

Having been returned to Council ownership this former rising main has been tapped to supply 21 houses in Helhoughton by standpipes and three private houses.

C O P Y

APPENDIX "A"

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD
CLARENCE HOUSE
6, CLARENCE ROAD
NORWICH

Cert No. 646.G - 2592/W 22nd October 1955

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 12th October 1955 from Walsingham R.D.C.
Marked : Houghton Main Well.
Appearance when received : Clear Nature of deposit : Nil
Colour : Nil Odour : Nil
Reaction : pH 7.3 Taste : Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	: a Trace	Hardness as $CaCO_3$:		
Albuminoid nitrogen	: 0.01	Total	:	320
Nitrate nitrogen	: 7	Carbonate (temporary)	:	250
Nitrite nitrogen	: Nil	Non-carbonate (permanent)	:	70
Chlorine as chloride	: 26	Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	:	250
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr., 27°C)	: 0.12	Free carbon dioxide	:	22.5
		Total solids (at 180°C)	:	412
		Iron (total)	:	Nil
		Metals in solution -		
		Zinc	:	Nil
		Copper	:	Nil

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is very good and the analysis as a whole shows no sign of pollution. The total hardness is approximately 22° Clark, most of this being temporary. The free carbonic acid content is low and this water would not be expected to have any seriously corrosive action on metals. The clarity, odour and taste were all satisfactory and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes and suitable for use as a public supply.

Signed : Lincoln Sutton and Wood

C O P Y

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
BOWTHORPE ROAD
NORWICH

WATER
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Copy sent to : The M. O. H., Norfolk
Authority or Sender : A. H. Eagle Esq., Walsingham R.D.C. Lab. Ref. No. 55/30323

Nature of Sample : Water from deep well.
Sample from main piped supply - Regional Mains - tap - Council Offices, Fakenham.

Date and hour of collection : 4.10.55. 2.10. p.m.
Date and hour of arrival : 4.10.55.

REPORT Date of Report : 6/10/1955

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.

REMARKS

This sample is highly satisfactory.

C O P Y

APPENDIX "B"

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD
CLARENCE HOUSE
6, CLARENCE ROAD
NORWICH

Cert No. 647.G/2593/W 22nd October 1955

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 12th October from Walsingham R.D.C.
Marked : Hindolvestone Council House Supply
Appearance when received : Opales cent, trace of orange deposit
Nature of Deposit : Iron compounds
Colour : Slightly greenish-yellow Odour : Nil
Reaction : pH 7.0 Taste : Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	:	0.34
Albuminoid nitrogen	:	0.04
Nitrate nitrogen	:	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	:	Nil
Chlorine as chlorides	:	39

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is good but it contains a trace of iron which gives rise to a rusty deposit on standing. In our opinion, this water is fit for drinking purposes but the presence of the iron may be somewhat of a nuisance.

Signed. Lincolne Sutton and Wood

C O P Y

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
BOWTHORPE ROAD
NORWICH

WATER
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Copy sent to : The M. O. H. , Norfolk
Authority or Sender : A. H. Eagle, Esq., Lab. Ref. No.55/303
Walsingham R.D.C.

Nature of Sample : Water from bore well.
Sample from Hindolvestone Council House supply - Taken from rising main at point of entry into storage tank.

Date and hour of collection : 4.10.55. 3.50 p.m.
Date and hour of arrival : 4.10.55.

REPORT

Date of report 6/10/55

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C.aerobically per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.

REMARKS

This sample is highly satisfactory.

C O P Y

APPENDIX "C"

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD

CLARENCE HOUSE

6, CLARENCE ROAD

NORWICH

Cert No. 644.G/2590/W 22nd October 1955

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 12th October 1955 from Walsingham R.D.C.
Marked : Water from Bore Creake Airfield
Appearance when received : Very slightly opalescent, trace of white deposit
Nature of Deposit, Vegetable matter, trace of iron
Colour : Slightly yellow Odour : Slightly oily
Reaction : pH 6.8 Taste : Satisfactory

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Ammoniacal nitrogen	:	0.03
Albuminoid nitrogen	:	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen	:	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	:	Nil
Chlorine as chlorides	:	25

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and free from any sign of pollution, apart from a slightly oily odour which may have been derived from the pump. In our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes.

Signed, Lincolne Sutton and Wood